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FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

d/c

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

JAN 29 1954

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Federal Civil defense Administration must base its plans for the civil defense of this country on the best and latest intelligence. The estimates of Soviet capabilities produced by your Agency, as well as pertinent National Security Council documents, are the best basis for such planning.

For the present, and for some years to come, we believe that the principal threat to the continental United States is that of nuclear weapons delivered by manned aircraft. Under present conditions of warning, we can advocate only a "duck and cover" doctrine for people, utilizing the shelter provided by existing buildings and some dispersal of equipment. We are, however, approaching the time when the progress of presently planned warning systems will give us a reasonable chance of receiving enough advance warning to make it practicable to plan for a dispersal of the populations of our principal cities. As the warning system increases in effectiveness our civil defense plans will be modified to meet the new developments.

At some time in the not too distant future this situation may change radically. When the Soviet Union succeeds in developing a true intercontinental ballistic missile of reasonable accuracy and capable of carrying an atomic warhead, air defense plans based on the detection and warning systems would have to be re-evaluated. If no effective warning can be expected, the civil defense problem cannot be met by relying on emergency dispersal of people, and must be re-examined from the ground up.

For this reason it would be extremely helpful to us to know the potentialities of the Soviet long-range guided missile programs as far in advance as possible. There are available to us various brief statements on the subject, ranging from the NIS series to Section 25

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of SE 36/1, but these do not meet our requirements, either as to detail or projection into the future. I am, therefore, requesting you to furnish us an estimate of Soviet capabilities in the field of long-range guided missiles, giving your opinion on probable range and weight of the weapon and its accuracy of aim with at least a minimum date at which we can expect them to exist in operational numbers. While our main interest is in these long-range weapons, we would also like to have your latest estimate of Soviet progress in the shorter range missiles suitable for launching from submarines or surface ships, as well as developments in air-to-ground types.

I would naturally like to have these estimates as soon as possible. However, it is more important to have a complete round-up and a thorough evaluation of all the available information in a few months than to have a hurried job in a matter of weeks. I do not wish to appear to set a deadline on this request, but we would like to have the study by the middle of May, if you think it reasonable. The paper will be used only in our Washington office, and is not to be given to State or local authorities, so that a high security classification will not be an inconvenience.

Sincerely,

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